

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claim 6, 7, 12, and 14 to 18 are allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The examiner had discussed this examiner's amendment with SPE Xuan Thai. The amendment was faxed to Mr. Morishita who called back on Friday, July 11th to approve the amendment.

Please amend Claim 26 as follows:

Claim 26. (Thrice amended) An electronic device for conducting a game for a player, said game utilizing an inventory of X number of game indicia when said inventory is fully constituted, the device comprising:

a computer processor storing an arrangement of said inventory;

a video display;

means for a player to make a wager and prompt play of the game;

said processor, in response to prompting, configured to randomly select and display at said display indicia selected from said inventory of indicia, a hand comprised of a plurality of selected and displayed indicia defining an outcome

and to preclude said selected indicia from selection from said inventory; said processor configured to compare said outcome to a schedule of winning outcomes stored in a data structure, to issue an award for a winning combination and to control the display to display prior to play of [the] a next hand information regarding the inventory of depleted indicia such that a player is enabled to deduce any scheduled winning outcomes eliminated by depletion of said indicia; and

means to prompt the processor to reconstitute said indicia inventory to X number of game indicia.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew D. Hoel whose telephone number is (571) 272-5961. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. to Fri., 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

4. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert E. Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3714

5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. D. H./
Examiner, Art Unit 3714

/XUAN M. THAI/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714